

Mrs. M.B. Dill
0 Spring Rock Rd.
Branford, CT 06405

RE *Islander East*
appeal to overturn
the judgement of
Conn. DEP.

Please support the
Ruling by Conn. DEP.

from a
Concerned Citizen



Office Gen. Counsel for
Ocean Services
National Oceanic + Atmos. Ad.
U.S. Dept of Commerce
1305 E/W Highway
Silver Spring, Md
20910

NOTA
bc
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February 25, 2003

Honorable Donald L. Evans
Secretary of Commerce
Herbert C. Hoover Building
14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing in support of an appeal submitted by Islander East, LLC to overturn the October 15, 2002 denial by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regarding proposed construction of the Islander East pipeline.

I agree with Islander East's position that -- contrary to the conclusion reached by the DEP -- the project is in fact consistent with the requirements of Connecticut's federally approved Coastal Zone Management Program (CZM), which is designed to balance our nation's energy interests with the protection of the state's environment.

In respect to environmental concerns, the pipeline's sponsors have taken extraordinary care to minimize environmental impact of the pipeline, thus fulfilling their obligations under the CZM.

Islander East will employ minimally invasive, horizontal direct drilling (HDD) technology that minimizes the need to dig a trench in portions of the pipeline route. This HDD technology -- which will be used for the maximum feasible distance of approximately 4,000 feet out from the Connecticut shoreline -- allows Islander East to dig a single hole and tunnel underground horizontally. It is a technique that has been embraced by such well-regarded, environmental conservation organizations as the Long Island Pine Barrens Society and the Nature Conservancy for helping to significantly reduce the pipeline's impact to the Pine Barrens' core preservation area.

Project sponsors will place the pipeline beneath the ocean floor, causing minimum disturbance to near-shore shellfish beds or any other environmentally sensitive areas. Furthermore, offshore construction activity will take place during winter months, when shellfish are less active and less susceptible to disturbance.

Regarding energy-related matters, the Islander East pipeline will help address national and regional energy needs in a number of positive ways.

Long Island's energy shortage is at a critical stage. The New York Independent System Operator -- the not-for-profit corporation that administers the state's

wholesale energy market -- has determined that the only solution to Long Island's long-term energy needs is to develop "on-island" generation. The organization has concluded that new sources of natural gas are needed immediately to power electric plants proposed to meet this need and to reduce dependency on fossil fuels. Further, the Islander East pipeline will help solve pressing, energy-related issues at the regional and interstate level by insuring a more fully integrated pipeline system.

The Islander East pipeline thus clearly fulfills the twin goals of the Coastal Zone Management Program. It balances regional and national energy interests with the need to protect the environment.

I therefore respectfully request that the Commerce Department make a judgment in favor of this position by rejecting the DEP denial and ruling that the Islander East pipeline complies with Connecticut's CZM.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joshua White". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent initial 'J'.

March 1, 2003

Office for the General Counsel for Ocean Sciences
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
US Dept of Commerce
1305 East-West Highway
Silver Spring MD 20910

Dear General Counsel,

Please support the ruling by our
Connecticut DEP regarding the proposed
Zsander East pipeline.

We were told the electric cable under
New Haven Harbor wouldn't hurt starfish -
but it did! Why should we believe
Zsander East. Our sand is to,
prevents to play Russian roulette with

No to Zsander East

Sincerely,



Michael Lengle
238 Monticello Dr
Danford VT 05405



March 11, 2003

To Whom It May Concern:

As I have lived near Long Island Sound most of my life I have seen the damage done to it by businesses that have no concern about the environmental damage they do to this wonderful resource. Their only concern is their profits. Lately the Sound is under assault once again. Islander East Pipeline Co., LLC wants to install a natural gas pipeline across the Sound to supply gas to Long Island and New York City.

Miles of wetlands will be destroyed, not to mention the irreparable damage to the Sound itself. A rupture in the pipe would have disastrous results. The floor of the Sound will be damaged - it will take decades to recover. Islander East's installation will leave over 2,600 anchor craters (each the size of a pickup truck) which has almost no chance to fill in normally. Anchor cables will scrape a 4,000 foot swath across the Sound, which will destroy thousands of acres of sea floor. The shellfish beds and fishing grounds will be ruined and the chance that they will recover is a small one.

Our State DEP is aware of this problem and has denied them a critical permit. Our General Assembly has declared a moratorium to halt all cross-Sound energy projects so a task force has time to assess the situation. Our

Congressional delegation have also refuted Islander East. Does Islander East care? No. Their answer is to appeal to you to override the decision of our state DEP. Their only concern always has been, and always will be, money.

I am pleading with you not to override the decision of the Connecticut DEP!! Long Island Sound is an invaluable natural resource that deserves your protection. Money is not a reason to destroy Long Island Sound. The People of Connecticut, our DEP, our General Assembly, and our Congressional delegation have come together to fight for Long Island Sound. Don't destroy what is so vitally important to all of us Do the right thing - don't override this decision! You'd be killing Long Island Sound!

Sincerely,
Karen Davidovich